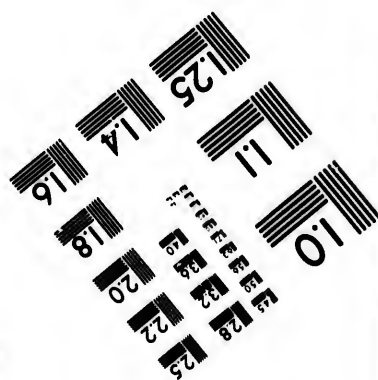
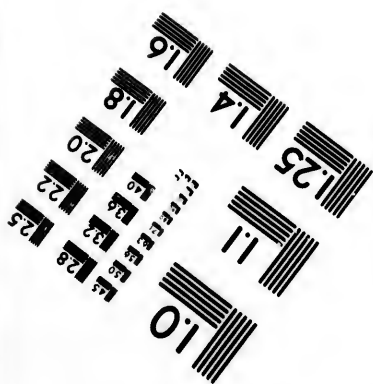
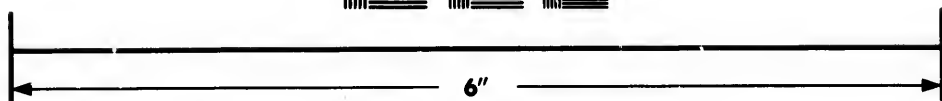
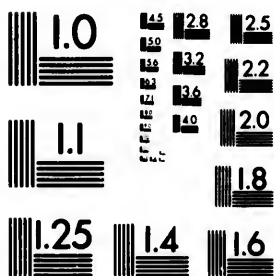


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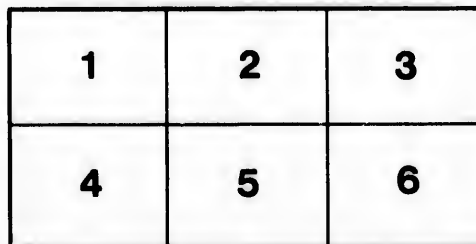
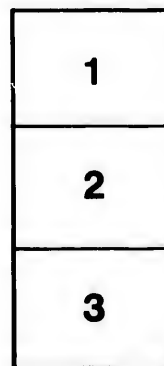
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INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

DELIVERED AT

THE OPENING OF THE 40th SESSION

— 1872 —

MEDICAL FACULTY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY,

AND

The Inauguration of the New College Building,

— 1872 —

W. WRIGHT, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.,

*Master of the Session, Lecturer in Practical Medicine, and
in the First Lecture on the Medical School of the Montreal
General and University College in 1849, 1850.*



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ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you for your warm reception, and, in acknowledging it, let me assure you that the joy of meeting is mutual. Your Professors are as happy as you are at the introduction now taking place on this the first day of the session. And in return for your applause, which we accept as your greeting, I have great pleasure, in their name, in extending to you a most cordial welcome.

This day begins a future which, we trust, will enrich you with an abundant harvest of professional usefulness, and when a little while has rolled by we hope to place in your hand the sickle by which its golden fruit may be gathered into your garners; or, to change the figure, we trust that before a long while we shall bind you round our necks with our other esteemed jewels in the long lace of graduates who are our sons in Medicine.

May the morning you first crossed these halls of learning be ever a red-letter one in your life's calendar. May enthusiasm so swell at the remembrance of the time spent here that you will be eager to exclaim: we hail from McGill! And may others read the great fact in your superiority, so that they too will be constrained to confess that from McGill, and McGill only, could you hail!

This day, again, will ever appeal to our hearts because it marks a new era in our position. We now inaugurate the stately building wherein we are met. It has been built by the Governors of the University, out of the funds at their disposal, at a cost of \$27,000. They have placed it exclusively as a free gift in the hands of the Medical Faculty. Long will the memory of their liberality be green. Whenever we look round we read in every part of the substantial structure their good will towards us and the munificent scale by which our wants should be met. *Si videres monumentum, circumspice*. As part of the College buildings, it forms a handsome wing, being, where medicine should always be, conspicuous in the company of the learned. No more healthy, no more picturesque site could have been chosen. And the edifice, as one of the many splendid others that adorn the base of the mountain, combines for its purpose, as much as they do for theirs,

the *ornate* with the *utiliter*. In proof of the last you will find in the internal arrangements that accommodation, convenience and comfort have all been carefully studied.

The building is 80 feet front by 84 feet 8 inches deep, and 48 feet high, to the top of the cornice, with a further elevation of 7 feet in the roof. The latter is a half mansard, broken up by three pediments, and covered with slate. The walls are solidly built, and are all of cut stone. The architects were Messrs. Hopkins & Wily.

On the east side, facing University street, is the students' entrance, leading into the basement. The lobby lands into a passage which, like the other halls, is 12 feet wide. On its left is a waiting-room, 30 feet by 32 feet 6 inches, furnished with chairs and tables. It is intended for resort during the intervals between lectures, where you may fill up your notes or otherwise profitably occupy yourselves. A strip is partitioned off and fitted to serve as a cloak room. On the right are the apartments of the caretaker, and on this floor are also spare rooms, closets, furnace and fuel cellar. The apartments having floors are based with concrete.

On the south side is the main entrance, facing Sherbrooke street. Having ascended the flight of stairs in front and crossed the lobby, you first meet two apartments, one on either side, which, when fitted up, cannot fail to command the admiration of every intelligent observer. One measures 30 feet by 34 feet; the other, 32 feet 6 inches by 30 feet. And your expectations concerning them will be the more raised when I add that our worthy Dean has personally contributed \$1,000, under the stipulation that the sum shall be disbursed in furnishing them for a Library and Museum respectively. Behind these are the Chemical class-room, with the Professor's room; the former 30 feet by 46 feet, seated to hold 190 comfortably; and the Laboratory, 32 feet 6 inches by 32 feet, for the Practical Chemistry class. It is provided with furnace, balance room, and all other necessary requirements. This floor, "the ground floor," is also approached by a short stairs running up from below.

On "the first floor," or one above the last, is the General Class-room, on the right hand side of the landing. It is 33 feet wide by 43 feet 2 inches deep. It has 11 tiers of seats, arranged as in the other class-rooms, in trilateral shape, with desks and backs, regularly graded, and able to contain 208 persons. Into it two doors open, the uppermost one being exclusively for the convenience of students. Close by are two side rooms, one for the use of professors, the other for the Materia Medica Cabinet. On the opposite side is another class-room, the Anatomical, 32 feet 10 inches by 43 feet, and seated for 180. It is supplied with seven tiers of seats,

and is well lighted with front and side windows and glazed skylight. Behind is the Dissecting room, 56 feet 10 inches long, and 30 feet 2 inches broad, provided with sink, lift, as well as all other essential appointments, and having its floor covered with lead. At its end are two small rooms, one for the Professor, and the other, which opens into it, for the Demonstrator.

The building will be warmed by hot water in circulation through coils and pipes of iron. Fittings are placed wherever gas may be needed. Means have been devised to ensure sufficient ventilation, and the acoustic adaptation of the Lecture rooms has also been regarded. In short, the whole is so designed that, when completed, the equal will not be found in any other medical school in the Dominion.

Medicine was a mere chaos till six hundred years before the Christian era, or a little earlier. Then the attempt was made to bring it into Cosmos, or under the comprehension of philosophy. The Asclepiades were the true originators of the science, and in helping on the work Pythagoras was famous.

Eight hundred years more passed by, however, before medicine was so digested, or so trimmed, as to be able to be publicly taught in a systematic manner. Then the Philosophical school or sect, which had in the meanwhile flourished, was superseded by the Empirical, under the guidance of Serapion and others; and then, the third century having dawned, there sprung up the first institution for medical education. It was founded at Iondisabour. It brought up many eminent men, among others, some centuries after, was Rhazes, the Prince of Physicians; but its teachings were soon opposed by those of the Methodics, and afterwards by the Dogmatics and others; for of it, as of others, it is true, "*nec scire fas est omnia.*"

The attendance upon some of the ancient colleges far exceeded that upon any single one in modern times; perhaps from there being not so many then as now to divide the palm. That of Bagdat, with which was associated an infirmary and laboratories, numbered as many as 6,000 students at one session, in the latter part of the eighth century.

In the eleventh century one of the most celebrated was the University of Salerno. Its medical lectures were very numerous attended during the Crusades, the place being then a fashionable resort. It awarded its degrees to students of seven years standing.

I shall not steep you in the Cimmerian gloom which rested upon later endeavours to diffuse professional learning, as it rested upon whatever else was calculated to ennoble mankind, till the middle of the fifteenth century; nor, pleasant though the task might be

trace the subsequent establishment throughout Europe, in the sunshine that succeeded, of medical schools which still continue to win the admiration of the whole world; but I propose to engage in what, I trust, will be to you still more agreeable. I propose to turn your attention from foreign seats of learning and bygone days to our own; for, as of the patriot and his country, so of the Alumnus and his college it may be sung,

“Such is the ” *Alumnus*’ “boast where'er we roam;
His first, best ” college “ever is at home.”

Before 1824 a few occasional lectures had been given in Montreal, but without the order, or regularity, or union that was afterwards manifested. In that year four of the most competent practitioners resident here, viz., Drs. Caldwell, Robertson, Stephenson, and Holmes, associated themselves to deliver, annually, courses of lectures upon certain branches of medicine. The school, thus initiated, was conducted with signal ability from the first. Many were its struggles, but the wisdom and energy of its brave founders triumphed over all. It was named the Montreal Medical Institute. Its pupils had the advantage of walking the General Hospital, which had been opened two years previously. Its powers were limited, however, to those of extra-academical bodies. This institution is of a peculiar interest to us. It was the child to the man of which the present one is father. Four years ended its nonage. Then it was grafted as a flourishing scion into the University of McGill College, of which it afterwards constituted the Medical department. It now had the privilege of procuring, for successful competitors, the *summos honores*, in the form of the degree of M.D. Its first graduate was William Logie, in 1833; he was the harbinger bud of the wreaths of flowers that blossomed in succeeding springs. Its usefulness was greatly promoted by the formation of a Library and Museum, which its Faculty made more extensive year by year. It began with four chairs, viz., Practice of Medicine, Midwifery, Chemistry and *Materia Medica*, Anatomy and Surgery. With the exception of a suspension during the rebellion which broke out in 1837, the lectures were delivered unremittingly every year. The last two chairs named were subsequently divided, so that Chemistry, Anatomy, and *Materia Medica* were taught separately. Surgery, however, was only released from its old bond to be joined to a new one—Midwifery. In 1842 the union was severed and each consigned to its own guardian. In November of the following year the efficiency of the school was materially increased by the opening up of the University Lying-in Hospital, which afforded students the oppor-

tunity of attending cases of labor. Two years afterwards four branches were added to the previous ones taught. They were: Institutes of Medicine, Medical Jurisprudence, Botany, and Clinical Medicine with Surgery. In the next session Clinical Medicine and Clinical Surgery were so distributed as to be taught by separate lecturers. Since then the only addition to the Curriculum has been in Practical Chemistry, which has now been taught for two years.

From the origin of this Faculty to this the fortieth year of its existence, it has enlisted twenty-six lecturers or professors, including its founders. Upon fourteen of these honoured men time has executed his commission :

“ He undermines the stately tower,
Uproots the tree, and snaps the flower;
And sweeps from our distracted breast
The friends we loved—the friends that blest.”

The last we have had to mourn the loss of has been Dr. Fraser, and because the last, I feel that no apology from me is needed while paying a short tribute to his memory, that it may be the more surely preserved among us.

William Fraser was born in Perth, Scotland, I believe, in the year 1814. After having completed his general education he entered upon the study of medicine, which he pursued, chiefly, in Glasgow, attending lectures both at the University of Glasgow and also at the Andersonian University. He was remarkable for the ardour, industry and perseverance he displayed in attaining to a knowledge of his profession. His tenacity of application and constancy in learning were such as if he had “set his life upon a cast,” and was resolved that by no fault or shortcoming of his should there be any “hazard of the die.”

Upon the outbreak of cholera at Roseneath in 1832 he was sent down to the parish by the late Dr. Lawrie, his Professor of Surgery, to officiate in a temporary infirmary opened for cases of the epidemic then raging. I mention this incident because it shows the high opinion entertained of him at that early time, judging him worthy to be trusted with a post of responsibility, And I mention it for another reason. Roseneath is the native place of our Dean, and there he made his acquaintance. As they then grasped their right hands of fellowship for the first time, neither one nor other had a glimpse of the brilliant future that awaited them in a far-off land, across a thousand miles wide bridge of sea, where they were to be colleagues for more than a quarter of a century, to supply the wants of the Dominion and parts which far

outly her borders with troop upon troop of skilful and accomplished practitioners.

In 1834 young Fraser received the license of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, which is a double qualification, the same as the Medical degree of our University. It entitles the holder to the position, with all the privileges of a general practitioner in that city, so that with it he can there practice Physic, Surgery and Midwifery. Fraser, however, used it more as an honour than a power. Having heard of Canada, where "worth by poverty depressed" rises not so slow as in the mother country, he left home and came out here. Soon after his arrival in this city he was made Apothecary or House Surgeon of the General Hospital, or rather both, for in those days the offices were fused together and held by one person.

While gathering experience of disease in its protean forms in this new situation, he decided upon extending his theoretical acquirements by re-attendance upon lectures. With this view he matriculated in this University, followed the courses, and, having qualified, graduated in 1836.

The graduation class of that year contained another member of high distinction—I mean Dr. William Sutherland, our Emeritus Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Fraser seemed to be so drawn towards him that an intimacy sprang up which time served to brighten, the tendrils of his heart being ever ready to cluster round the charms of a social, manly, philosophic nature. And whenever memory recounts the pleasures of a by-gone oratory that fell in brilliant gleams upon admiring pupils, or a physician to whom the hearts of his sick were gratefully knit in warm affection, or a friend who tenderly felt for another's smart and could cheer the lonesome way with his winsome words, then will it recount some of the graces of a Sutherland!

Having obtained license to practice in Lower Canada—which can be got by proving ownership to one's degree—Dr. Fraser gave up the hospital and engaged in private practice. He realized the fond dreams of hope, and from a slender perch climbed up to an uppermost branch to rejoice in all the pleasures which first-class success could yield. Ever ready to heed the call of the sick, to act upon the rule, "*labor omnia vincit*," and to do the best for his patients, he took, at the flood, the tide in his affairs which led on to fortune, and after thirty-six years toil he was worth £40,000 or £50,000.

In 1845 he was chosen to fill the chair of medical jurisprudence. I had the benefit of his maiden course, together with your able Professor of Medicine and four others whom I can recall. It was

new and not obligatory retrospectively, and for these reasons the attendance was so thin. Here he gave the first marks of aptness for lecturing that after years only rendered more prominent. I well remember the zeal with which he threw himself into his work, the pains-taking he exhibited in its discharge, and the faithfulness with which he carried it through to a satisfactory close. His aim was to afford his class a clear, curt, well-digested view of his subject, abreast with the progress of the day.

In 1847 he was elected by the Board of Governors one of the medical staff of the hospital. Though that year was a very busy one for doctors, owing to the spread of an extensive epidemic of Typhus or Ship Fever, imported by emigrants who had suffered from famine consequent upon the failure of the potato crop in Ireland, Dr. Fraser shewed himself equal to the emergency. In other outbreaks, as those of cholera in 1849 and afterwards, he was always under arms and effective in the path of duty. His patients had great confidence in his wisdom, and his humane treatment won their esteem. He was fond of Surgery, and as an operator was daring, bold and resolute. He was also fond of trying new remedies in order to determine their real merit, or ascertain some new point in their action.

In 1849, yielding to the wish of the Faculty, he was translated to the lectureship of Institutes of Medicine, which he filled during the twenty-three years following. He here displayed the characters that were so marked in his former post, but more developed by the training he had there received. Thousands of students have borne away his teachings, and with their deep science have drunk in the spirit of inquiry they caught from him, and profited by the example of diligence he set before them.

Dr. Fraser had a lofty idea of the dignity of medicine. He was a stern foe to empiricism under every guise, and a strong upholder of rational medicine. To his mind its pillars were Physiology and Pathology; or they were the streams through which the fountain was to be supplied. Partiality, however, did not close his eyes to the inestimable value of Clinical study. He was a useful member of the several Medico-Chirurgical Societies that rose and sank during his career; and he occasionally contributed original articles to the local journals. The first was in the *Montreal Medical Gazette* for May, 1844, about a case of Ovarian Tumor. In the same journal will be found his account of a case of Castration, and one of Spasmodic Croup. In the *British American Journal* he published two papers, one on Erysipelas treated by Venesection, and another entitled, "Observations on Fever prevalent among Emigrants." In the *Medical Chronicle* he wrote upon "Galvanism in Paralysis of

the Bladder," "Amputation of the Forearm," "Strychnine in Cholera," and "Perineal Section in Stricture of the Urethra." In this journal and in those that succeeded it, several hospital cases are reported under his name, treated by him, but written by others who had watched them.

For several years Dr. Fraser was a Governor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canada East: and a Member of the Natural History Society of this city.

And here the sable line must end this rude sketch. His long life of activity, having been embittered by Prostatic Hypertrophy for some time, at length urinary infiltration set in, and in a few days more, on the 24th of last July, he was removed from among

us

"To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death."

"Until the day-break and the shadows flee away."

We deeply deplore the breach made in our ranks. We have done our best towards its repair. The admirable way in which your new Professor of Institutes managed his former offices flatters us with the florid hope that you will soon realize his appointment to have been the best that could have been made. The blank he has left, in turn, Dr. Ross, a gold-medalist, fills. He brings with him the Clinical experience he gained during the years he was in the hospital, where he won for himself garlands of praises.

A feature of this school is, she does not forget her students, nor pass them over for strangers. Her chairs are her highest prizes, and when her own can fill them she glories with maternal pride in drawing them still closer to her bosom. Of her eleven Professors eight have been her offspring, and these eight have sat at the feet of one whom they still thank for his invaluable lessons. That one is the acknowledged Nestor of Canadian Medicine, beyond whose professional opinion there is no appeal. But to them he is far more; he is as a fond father whom they dearly love, a sincere and faithful friend in whom they delight; and while he is these, that one is also the one whom they esteem as their Dean!

As motion causes heat, heat light and chemical action, chemical force electricity and magnetism, so in the progress of this school several other schools have started up; or, rather, I should say, as life-force, by acting on matter, brings out these cosmical forces, so our existence has been followed by the birth of others. That is what I should have said, for life-force has its origin from no other force, nor into it can no other be turned, nor can it be merged into any other. And that is just the case with this school. It

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owes its start to no other in the Dominion ; no other can take its place ; and it has lost nothing by developments, on the contrary, "*crescit crescendo.*"

The relation of medical schools to universities in this country is unlike what it is in the great model institutions of the British Isles. There, there are few universities and many schools. Here, every school is part of a separate university. I do not object to many schools. I would always rejoice to find many were needed, and would gladly welcome the efficient. But I hold, and very strongly too, that nothing is more calculated to make them engines of destruction than to constitute each one a faculty of a distinct university. Legislation could not inflict upon a people a greater evil than to multiply bodies having unlimited power to grant degrees to whom they please, and as they please, without hindrance or supervision, where, as in Canada East, such degrees procure for their holders a license to practice, without further examination, however great may be the measure of their incompetence. Through its university each medical school has this unlimited power, and, having it, there is to be apprehended the liability that the maintenance it could not expect because of its sterling worth or established reputation, it will seek to acquire through the lavish exercise of the power unwisely placed in its hands. Especially is this to be expected when competition springs up late in the day. And while it lasts, such a school may show its disregard or sacrifice of the health, or happiness, or life of the public, by periodical drains of incompetent physicians whom it sends out to deal with these essentials upon which the security and prosperity of a country necessarily depend.

What you want in a respectable medical school is: firstly, that it shall have abundant opportunities for imparting a practical acquaintance with diseases and injuries through actual observation and clinical teaching. For this an hospital is indispensable. In the mother land it is the hospital originates the school. The school is the school of the hospital, and from it gets its worth. There no eminent men would presume to teach medicine who were destitute of the resources of an hospital.

What, again, you want in a useful medical school is an extensive library, where the periodical literature of different places may be referred to ; where the classics of the profession may be consulted ; where there are some thousands of volumes of standard books ; and where the works last issued are annually added.

What you want, further, in a reliable school is that it should be thoroughly equipped in means of illustration. It ought to have a museum largely stocked with both Anatomical and Pathological

preparations. The latter to be so varied as to comprise, with the more common, the rarer lesions; in short, such a display as can only be accumulated gradually, after tens of years of collection. And in addition to these there should be as many series of the best executed plates or drawings, as well as such varied objects, or models, or instruments as are generally serviceable.

As you pursue your studies you will find them very entertaining. You will find our abode is on a crust twenty-three miles thick, the cooled scum of molten blazing rock beneath, one hundred and sixty times hotter than red-hot iron; and our life is a vortex of changes, kept up by tearing from milk, or flesh, or fruits the atoms of our anatomy to make good the piece-meal wear of what we once called ourselves. You will find that we are kept warm by our unlocking the sunshine from the cellars of food or fuel in which it has been stored after it has ridden upon its beam through space that would take a railway train two hundred and thirty years to cross; and that we are ever in motion, travelling with the earth, with a speed sixty-eight times as great as that of a bullet fired from a rifle.

Your studies will also fill you with interest, as they show you how wonderfully you are made; as they lead you, stage by stage, through the work of building the human frame, from the time of the fertilized ovum cradled in the Graffian vesicle onwards; as they point out the outlay of myriads of nerves, of vessels—blue, red, white and colorless—meandering in leashes over mountain-like organs, valley-like dips, and plain-like surfaces; as they trace the finger of design: as they give every measure even down to the 1-400th part of a line; and as they tell of every function.

Medicine, however, chiefly commends itself because of its utility. It points out the laws of health; how to stamp out the decimating plague, to cause the air or water of a town to be pure, and to promote the salubrity of its people. It takes you on the wings of contagion to its strong holds; shields from its venom; tracks it in its progress; and fits you to enter the lists against it sure of victory. It gives you power over the ills to which flesh is heir. It takes you where Flora spreads her treasure, and down the mines of the earth, and into the noisy shop of the factor, and many a place besides, to cull remedies. It learns you what they can do, when to use them, and how to give them. It speaks of the insane root that takes the reason prisoner; of Kecksy or Conium that killed Socrates; of the finger of Hermes, which is the anima articularum; of the Masch Allah, or "gift of God," that first provokes pleasure, then lulls to rest; of one that in fractional parts arches back the body into the rigid locks of death; of another that relaxes every part; and of very many more. It arms you with the

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surgeon's skill and strength when the question is what has been the injury, when the cry for relief is importunate, and when if the right aid be not afforded the case must be lost. It enables you to staunch life's current in its wasteful flow; to rid the air-pipe of the struggler for breath from its foreign body; and in countless other ways to prove the friend of distressed humanity.

Marvel not that such a science, such an art should be richly strewed with encomiums. Let me read you two or three. One of the oldest says: "Honour a physician with the honour due unto him." "The skill of the physician shall lift up his head, and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration. Give place to the physician. Let him not go from thee for thou hast need of him." Among the Romans, Cicero was exuberant in his praises of the profession. According to him, "nothing brings man nearer to the gods than in giving health to his fellow-creatures." And in more modern times Dr. Johnson, the leviathan of English literature, thus beautifully records the memory of a practitioner:

" When fainting nature call'd for aid,
And hovering death prepared the blow,
His vigorous memory display'd
The power of art without the show.
In misery's darkest cavern known,
His useful care was ever nigh,
Where hopeless anguish pour'd his groan,
And lonely want retired to die."

These are a few of the inducements that prevail to urge you to attain the object before you. The path is made easy in proportion to the thoroughness of your previous education. Where that has been liberal it is the best preparative to future study. The higher the preliminary training the more easily will you acquire your professional learning, and the more surely will it be remembered. When possible, a collegiate course in Arts should be added to the instruction of the Grammar or High School. The benefit conferred is not merely the grasp of a larger field of information, but, also, the better culture of the mental faculties, whereby knowledge will be more efficiently apprehended, retained, and turned to profit. The tentacula by which it is secured will become more expanded, effective, and polished. Graduates in Arts should, therefore, be able to acquire the profession sooner than others, and upon the belief that such is the case they are granted the benefit of one year off from the four which in other cases must be spent in the study of medicine. And while urging the advantages of the highest preliminary education, permit me to point to the

superior opportunities this university affords to those in search of such a gain, and also permit me to add that they are opportunities for which, in a great measure, the Dominion is indebted to our learned Principal, whose successful labours in elevating education among us, and promoting its diffusion in its varied departments, have won for him the gratitude of all by whom they can be appreciated.

Once entered upon the study of medicine act out the note of Lucretius, "a falling drop at last will cave a stone." Avoid the mistake of attempting too much. The celerity that makes the ocean cable or circular saw valuable will kill the student. Impatience is one of the giants he has to war with. The last lecture, the capping day, the start in life, the first fee, all seem so far off that the desire is to draw them nearer, to shorten time, and pile on studies. A forcing system is apt to be instituted. The most jejune compendiums, the most condensed notes are most pondered. Such a plan may help to pass an examination, but it will fail in after life. What is got by it will be like snow,—quickly gathered and quickly melted away. In winter you may not have time for much more, but in summer you have, and then your reading should extend to the best modern authors on important subjects, and your time be largely spent in the hospitals. Your memory is to be the infirmary from the resources of which your patients are to be treated *secundum artem*, and therefore you cannot too richly store its cells. Depend upon it, a year or so more, when this is the object, will not eventually be regretted. In my time it was not unusual to study five years, and when I look across the almost quarter of a century that has lapsed since my five ended I have no regret because they were so many.

Again,

" Like an inverted cone
Wants the proper base to stand upon,"

do not invert the order of your studies. Another error to be shunned is to study the final branches before the primary. It is the loss of method, and that is a cause of imperfection. Even haste is here no excuse. Though these be the days of electric speed and steam force; yet, in their haste there is method. The telegraph message and river propeller run their course in order. So, whatever be the haste to get through medicine, the student should go, like them, right, straight through his course, in the proper way, without either slip or skip. Get such an acquaintance with the rudiments that they shall be the firm scaffolding or frame of the edifice you are to surround and fill in with all that will complete its structure. Undoubtedly you will have knotty things to

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master, but be not faint-hearted. What others have accomplished you can achieve. They were just as raw and verdant at the start. But they won the victory in time, by constant application, diligence during lectures, and persevering study. Therefore, "*nil desperandum*." The same means will as surely carry you through. If "*perge et prospera*" be your watchword you will cross the Alpine ridges of ignorance with a splendid array of forces, and be so able to marshal your army of medical lore as to meet any move on the chess board of disease and accident. Do not drop what is hard but study it the harder. And though but two courses be exacted, fail not to add a third on the branch you feel to be to you as the heel to Achilles.

At your lectures, be punctual, be regular, be constant, be exemplary. It is a bad prognostic to see a young fellow who has paid out his father's money, got, usually, after much toil on the old man's part, instead of reaping the advantages it procures for him, lounging the time about the college premises or sauntering through the streets. I know of no student who was attentive at his lectures, with a fair share of intelligence, that was ever plucked. A chronic system of neglect, however, will inevitably ruin any one. Be diligent in every useful way. At your lectures carry off all the information you can. From the wordy flood poured forth make rivulets on paper from which the brain may drink in afterwards; otherwise the whole will slide over both ears unheeded and uncaught. Often try to recall what you have learned, digest it, sink it deep into your mind, and from time to time hold an assize with yourself as to your proficiency, by constituting yourself both the examiner and the examined.

It is often said of a physician, his popularity is due to his manners. While, then, you are preparing for his position, attend also to their culture. As you would have them by and bye, so you should trim them now. Let the shadow that falls from you upon others be gentle, kind, and genial. Let it not be coarse nor repulsive, for the sick you will have to attend may be of delicate feeling, cultivated taste, and refined minds. Let it leave no remembrance of vulgarity to wound the tenderest nature. Let it always be humane and sympathizing. Let it not exhibit any kindred with a spirit of vandalism that delights in wanton wrong. Let it not mar its influence by any occasional burst of rowdyism or wild puerile folly. And while the shadow that falls from you has these traits, let it also have a quiet, grave cast. Your manners should cast such a shadow, for the business of the physician is no sport, impending death is no joke, the responsibility of hav-

ing a man's life in your hands is no farce, the guilt of not having done all you should have done is no trifle.

As nothing is harder to escape than the snares of bad habits, once their coils have been spun, so medical students should not form habits unsuited to practitioners.

In no other profession than the medical is there greater need for a man to be sober. Unless the upper decks be kept clear for action his wits are not fit to meet an engagement. If I could gain the ear of an inebriate who prefers intemperance to reason I would tell him to aim to be almost anything but a drunken doctor; I would tell him that as such sooner or later he will inflict injury, and reduce himself to penury. Who more unfit than him, when muddled or half mad, to rule where every hope lingers upon his words; where bleeding hearts look to him to save a dying mother; where his groggy fingers try to impart news to his maudlin brain or to shake out its behests? Who that could avoid him would have him?

Now for a few words on smoking. I do not say "thou shalt not smoke tobacco," after the authorities of Berne, who caused these words to be written on a tablet of their church; nor will I uphold to your imitation the pattern of Dr. Parr, who, unless asleep or eating, was usually found burning the weed; but I advise those of you who will smoke to do so at the right time and in the right place, and so that it will not enfeeble your energy nor fog your mind. Dissection would be finer if, while being done, the hand were not weakened by the narcotic. The atmosphere of the class-room would be more pure and bracing, more conducive to attention and memory, if it were not soiled with deadening nicotine.

Set a proper estimate on the worth of life. No study can be too great which will enable you to save life or make it more enjoyable. These are the objects of medicine; these are the merits you must affirm you have before you can be enlisted into her ranks. Before you can be graduated you will have to swear "*coram Deo*" that you possess "*omnia ad aegrotorum corporum salutem conducentia*," in other words, that you are masters of the skill and art which conduce to the recovery of the sick. What a motive is this to urge upon you to turn your advantages to the best account; to give the full benefit of all the resources science places within your reach to your patient, who looks to you, under the Great Physician, to prolong his days and avert the calamity his death would cause. Be no respecter of patients. Treat all alike. Destitution may mask the noblest front. Some physicians were once consulting over a loathsome looking object on the pallet of an hospital, and

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when their prescription was given, it was added in Latin, "let the experiment be made upon the vile body." Instantly the mass of woe started from disguise, and in the same tongue remonstrated, "let not that body be called vile for which Christ died."

Think highly of your profession; think of it as honourable and noble, as useful and God-like. Its fields are ripe with opportunities to grace a life of true religion. There are rare chances for being unspotted when gold would tempt to purloin or to pay unnecessary visits, or to needlessly officiate, or to speak falsely. There where there is "a constant interruption of pleasure" self-denial can shine out in full splendor. There may be kindled the flame which will cause your breasts to burn with fellow-feeling, tender pity, and kind compassion. There may be sown broadcast the seeds that will richly store your garner with the praises of benevolence, humanity, and philanthropy. And there can be conferred such acts of charity as may well challenge others to excel them in being more disinterested and less ostentatious.

Be heroes in the strife. Your reputation is not to be won at the cannon's mouth, nor your breast adorned with valor's clasp; but a heroism may glisten in your eye the world's brave heroes never knew. When pestilence causes the eagle eye of the soldier of the forlorn hope to quail, or his lion heart to fail, then, like one of old, you may stand between the living and the dead. Your spirit is not to be fired by the carnage of a nation, nor the wails of the bereaved, nor the triumphs of might over the weak, nor the panegyrics of the press; but, by prospects of recovered health, and happiness, and prosperity, by promptings of conservatism, and by kind concern at human pain.

Let your life be as a sun of wisdom shining out upon the world to which your influence extends; let it be unsullied by a cloud of suspicion against your worth or sincerity; and when the crimson of the sunset sky paints the evening, when you shall no more go forth to work, then, in the night that follows, the bright stars that have treasured up the light of the past will shine forth to welcome you home to "the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense."



